



NEWS WATCH



Fine Tesoro \$25,000, environmentalists say

The Sierra Club says Tesoro Hawaii Corp. should be fined the maximum for its part in an Aug. 24 oil spill that resulted in sea birds washing ashore on Kauai soaked with oil.

David Kimo Frankel, director of the Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, said, "By spilling over a hundred barrels of oil, Tesoro has killed sea birds, damaged marine life and polluted some of Hawaii's most beautiful beaches. The oil company must be held strictly liable for polluting the environment."

Company officials said a hose failure at the Tesoro mooring 1 1/2 miles off Barbers Point led to the spill. "We sincerely regret that the accidental failure of our hose at the single-point mooring is having an impact on our environment and the birds," said Nathan Hokama, Tesoro Hawaii spokesman.

The Sierra Club asked the Coast Guard to hit Tesoro with a \$25,000 fine.

The Garden Island
Sept. 15, 1998

Perplexed tourists wait for beach to reopen as oil cleanup progresses



OIL SPILL CLEANUP workers, using "pompoms" screening material, continued work Monday morning against the rising tide at the Nukoli'i Beach fronting the Outrigger Kauai Hotel. The material traps tarballs washing in from a Aug. 24 spill that has been traced to a hose failure that occurred while a crude oil tanker was filled at Tesoro Hawaii off Barber's Point on Oahu. Following up a lip, Garden Island staffers found tar globules at Aluhiki pier, and Penco sent a crew there as well. Meanwhile, perplexed tourists stand behind the tape closing Nukoli'i Beach. The Sierra Club has called for the state and Coast Guard to levy the next multimillion-dollar Tesoro for the loss of seabirds, damage to marine life and closure of beaches.

(Photos by Dennis Fujimoto)



Options

Congress has other ways to reprimand the president
Clinton/A-3

Spooky deal

Goblins are coming back to Tustin
Hightower/A-4



Strike back

Abania government lashes out after buildings are set
Ward/A-5

PENINSULA CLARION

Kenai Alaska
local paper

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1998 Soldotna/Kenai, Alaska

50 cents newsstand

Oil spill washes ashore on Kauai

LIHUE, Hawaii (AP) — An oil spill that killed 10 birds, injured dozens more and forced the closure of two beaches was 10 times larger than originally estimated, an oil company said.

Tar balls are still washing ashore on Kauai 100 miles north of the spill, which was reported Aug. 29 at Tesoro Hawaii's transfer facility offshore of Barber's Point on the island of Oahu.

At the time, Tesoro said the spill was only 10 barrels based on its aerial observations. On Sunday, the company said up to 117 barrels of oil had spilled. A barrel contains 42 gallons.

The company blamed its low

original estimate on the lack of observation of oil during its aerial surveys.

Tesoro, based in San Antonio, Alaska, including a refinery in Nikiaki and more than 180 retail gasoline locations.

The Coast Guard said it has been difficult to locate the marke-sized tar balls because they are so small. "It's kind of like looking for a needle in a haystack," Capt. Frank Whipple said.

Tesoro Hawaii is working with the Coast Guard and two oil spill response cooperatives, the Clean Islands Council and the Marine Spill Response Corporation, in the

cleanup effort. More than 150 people are involved.

Closing Fuji Beach and Nukoli Beach allows for the continued cleanup, the Coast Guard said Sunday. The tar ball cleanup at two other Kauai beaches at Barking Sands and Poihale has ended.

At least two dozen sea birds, including red-footed boobies, a brown booby and a petrel, have been found covered with oil. Officials fear the spill could hurt endangered populations of sea turtles and monk seals.

Tesoro, which entered the Hawaii market in May with the purchase of BHP Hawaii, said it will pay for the cleanup.

Tesoro jacks up size of oil spill

By The Associated Press

LIHUE — Tesoro Hawaii has increased by more than tenfold its estimate of the size of an oil spill from its transfer facility offshore of Barber's Point.

The spill has resulted in the deaths of at least 13 birds, damage to dozens more and closure of two beaches on Kauai, where tar balls are washing ashore.

The spill was reported Aug. 29 at the oil company's mooring point 1 1/2 miles offshore of its refinery at Barber's Point. The mooring point is where the company unloads oil from ships into lines that feed into its refinery.

At the time, Tesoro said the spill was only 10 barrels based on aerial observations it had conducted. On Sunday, the company increased the size of the spill, saying up to 117 42-gallon barrels of oil had spilled.

The company blamed its low original estimate on the lack of observation of oil during its aerial surveys.

The Coast Guard said it has been difficult to locate the tar balls because they are so small.

"It's kind of like looking for a needle in a haystack," Capt. Frank Whipple said.

Officials said the spill is catching them off-guard, as computer projections showed the spill would not come near any of the islands.

"We're seeing some kind of current or something actually move the oil," Whipple said.

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At least two dozen sea birds, including red-footed boobies, a brown booby and a petrel, have been found covered with oil. The birds have died of oil ingestion, dehydration and hypothermia, and officials fear the spill may adversely affect endangered populations of sea turtles and monk seals.

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To: Robbie H. Raltr II

1-808-845-8457

Robbie

As you can see, it
appears to be a

Mainland paper, but I
don't know which one.

Also don't know the date.

Off to "outback" Qld. now,
back in office

Friday afternoon

SMITH

Mahalo for the e-mail.

Take care,

[Signature]

Hawaii

Oil spill hitting Kauai larger than estimated

LIHUE, Hawaii — An oil spill that killed 10 birds, injured dozens more and forced the closure of two beaches was 10 times larger than originally estimated, an oil company said.

Tar balls are still washing ashore on Kauai 100 miles north of the spill, which was reported Aug. 29 at Tesoro

Hawaii's refinery transfer facility off Oahu.

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State seeks information on animals hurt by spill

Small amounts of oil
still washing ashore
on Kauai beaches

By Jan TenBruggencate
Advertiser Kauai Bureau

LIHUE, Kauai — State officials are asking anyone who finds birds, fish or other wildlife affected by floating or beached oil to report those finds so agencies can determine accurately the damage to natural resources.

Small amounts of oil were still washing ashore on east Kauai beaches yesterday from the Aug. 24 spill of fuel oil at Tesoro Hawaii's Barbers Point mooring. Company officials estimate between 500 and 5,000 gallons of oil spilled when a hose failed. The oil drifted westward across the Kauai channel.

State officials have collected 29 birds covered with oil from the spill, of which 12 are surviving in care facilities on Oahu and Maui. Most of the birds have been collected on Kauai.

"We have been getting reports that some people are burying birds that have been killed by the spill. ... We are urging people to report them to

command centers that have been set up on Kauai and Oahu," said Bruce Anderson, state deputy director of environmental health.

The Health Department, state Department of Land and Natural Resources and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration are preparing a natural resource damage assessment. Anyone finding wildlife affected by the oil can call on Kauai 245-1955, extension 4051 or 4049; on Oahu 847-8718.

Crews continued to clean up oil gobs and splashes on sandy beaches and rocky coastlines on Kauai. A tarball was found at Laie on Oahu, but has not yet been confirmed to come from the Tesoro spill, said Capt. Frank Whipple, of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office.

Whipple said a preliminary infrared night survey of the ocean Monday night failed to locate any more floating oil. He said the survey was to be repeated last night.

The Garden Island 9/16/88

Oil-soaked birds should be reported, not buried

LIHU'E — The state health department is asking the public not to dispose of any wildlife or other natural resource that appears to have been contaminated by the recent Tesoro Hawai'i oil spill.

The health department is the lead agency assessing the damages caused by the spill and will need to know as much as possible what was affected in order to properly determine the costs of correcting the damages.

"We have been getting reports from Kauai that some people are burying birds that have been killed by the spill," said Deputy Director of Environmental Health Bruce Anderson.

"Rather than bury the birds, we are urging people to report them to command centers that have been set up on Kauai and Oahu."

The health department is working.
(See Birds on Page A-8)

Birds

(Continued from Page 1)

ing with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, the federal Department of the Interior and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in developing the natural resource damage assessment.

"All of these agencies are trustees of the environment and as such are responsible for seeing that any harm to the environment is properly recorded and that steps are taken to fix the damages," Anderson said.

Anyone who finds wildlife, including birds or fish, that appear to have been affected by the oil spill is asked to call 245-1955 (ext 4051 or 4049) on Kauai, or 847-8718 on Oahu.



By TRISH MOORE, Star-Bulletin

Above, Bruce Anderson, deputy director of Environmental Health, observes the cleanup at Nukoli Beach with Dave Carter, right, maintenance manager of Pacific Environmental Corp., which was contracted by Tesoro Hawaii to clean up the spill. Below, in the left hand is a dead crab found on the beach where most of the oil spilled. At right is a typical size tar ball.

Public's help needed to figure cost of oil spill

Anyone finding oil-damaged birds or marine life is asked to contact state health officials

By TRISH MOORE
Hawaii Star-Bulletin

NUKOLII BEACH, Kauai — State health officials are asking the public's help to determine how much environmental damage was caused by a leak that dumped about 5,000 gallons of oil into the ocean.

Residents and visitors are being urged to contact the Oil Spill Response Center if they find any evidence of birds or marine life damaged by the oil.

Bruce Anderson, deputy director of environmental health, said he's received reports that some people are burying birds that have been killed by the spill.

The Health Department needs to document evidence in order to recoup damage costs from Tesoro Hawaii, the oil company responsible for the Aug. 24 spill off Barber's Point on Oahu.

The Health Department and other state and federal officials will try to determine the extent of the damage over the next several weeks before negotiating with the company.

"There are ways of projecting what the impacts might be, but the more information we have, the better," Anderson said.

Anderson inspected several Kauai beaches yesterday to assess the extent of the spill and observe cleanup efforts.

"I know we're not finding a lot of the birds," he said. "Many are eaten by sharks, and others end up dying in some remote area where we can't find them."

Twenty-nine oiled birds have been recovered so far. Of those, 11 are being treated by



state veterinarians and 15 are dead.

David Kimo Frankel, director of the Sierra Club's Hawaii chapter, said the company should be "punished heavily" for the spill.

"They knew from the start that far more than 10 barrels had been spilled, and they did not tell the public until much later, until after the Coast Guard identified the source of the oil," Frankel said.

Tesoro Hawaii spokesman Nathan Hokama said that by measuring the amount of fuel pumped to the mooring ship, the maximum amount of oil that could have spilled was 117 barrels, or about 5,000 gallons.

"But there are so many other variables, such as how much oil remained in the pipeline" after the pumping was stopped, Hokama said.

The initial estimate of 10 barrels was determined from an aerial survey conducted in conjunction with the Coast Guard the morning after the spill, he said.

When oil and tar began washing up on Kauai shores, Coast Guard officials traced their source to the Tesoro spill.

More than 150 people on Oahu and Kauai have been contracted in the tedious task of removing thousands of tiny bits of oil and

Contact numbers

Anyone finding wildlife that appears to have been affected by the oil spill is asked to call 245-1966, ext. 4051 or 4049 on Kauai, or 647-5718 on Oahu.

tar embedded in the sand on the beaches.

"I'm surprised at how much oil there still is," Anderson said. "What I'm seeing is how difficult it is to get the oil cleaned up."

Workers have to sift through each section of sand to pick out the tar balls, many about the size of BB pellets.

Dragnets baited into "pom-poms" are tied to lines that stretch along the surf to collect much of the tar that is being washed ashore.

Several East Kauai beaches remain closed while they are being cleaned, including Nukoli Beach, which fronts the Outrigger Beach Hotel.

Surveys of the southeastern shoreline of Niihau found no evidence of oil, according to oil spill response officials.

There is no estimate yet of the cost of the cleanup.

Cities event is part of the Energy Department's Clean Cities program. The U.S. Postal Service currently operates more than 7,300 natural gas vehicles across the U.S. The El Paso fleet consists of 397 vehicles. Clean Cities is a voluntary program designed to promote the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, cleaner air in major U.S. cities, reduced dependence on imported oil, while stimulating local economic activity. Contact Marcy Rood, DOE, (202)586-8161.

Tar balls -- The Coast Guard in Honolulu, Hawaii, said that it has identified a failed hose at the Tesoro Hawaii mooring point as the source of tar balls that have been washing up on Kauai and harming wildlife. The mooring point is located offshore of Barber's Point, and is used by Tesoro for transferring crude oil from ships in the refinery.

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NEWS FEATURES EDITORIAL SPECIAL REPORTS DIRECTORY ADVERTISING

News Bytes

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

Plastic recycling -- A new device designed to quickly and easily identify plastics so they can be sorted for recycling has been named one of the year's 100 most technologically significant products and processes by R&D Magazine. The device, developed by a group of Purdue University researchers and manufactured by SpectraCode Inc. in Purdue's Industrial Research Park, may help to save billions of pounds of plastics that now are landfilled or incinerated every year, says Edward Grant, Purdue professor of chemistry and chief executive officer of SpectraCode.

Shrinking lakes -- Two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service crews were recently conducting a survey of lakes and ponds on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska when they learned that a lake on their map had turned into a grassy meadow, reported the Associated Press. The lake is but one of a dozen or so lakes on the peninsula that have evaporated since 1950 and the scientists believe this trend could be an indication of global warming.

Park expedition -- Due to the success of an initial round of wildlife projects undertaken in 1997 that ranged from grizzly bear, rare plant and ungulate research to the ecological restoration of one of Yellowstone's long-abandoned roads, the "Expedition into the Parks" program will be extended into 1998. Canon U.S.A. presented a check to the National Park Foundation for \$100,000 to further assist projects at Yellowstone.

Birds of prey -- The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey is scheduled to have their annual Open House Sept. 19 in Boise, Idaho. The \$1.2 million Interpretive Center was built with the support of many in the community to address the increasing public desire to see and learn about conservation and birds of prey. A visit to the Interpretive Center includes three different multi-media presentations, exhibits, interactive displays and close contact with several birds of prey including Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcons, a Golden Eagle, a Short-eared Owl, and Harpy Eagles. The Center is also the only place where visitors may see California Condors in Captivity. Contact: Jeff Cilek, The Peregrine Fund, (208)362-3716.

Water report -- Duke University paleoecologist Sherri Cooper studied 2,000 years of changes in North Carolina rivers and found that a decline in water quality that began about 50 years ago decimated certain beneficial diatoms, creating an opportunity for harmful organisms such as *Pfiesteria piscicida* to increase. Her report was produced for the University of North Carolina's Water Resources Research Institute.

Cleaner delivery -- As part of an international Clean Cities celebration in the Paso del Norte region, the Postal Service in El Paso, Texas, was recognized as the first and only Postal Service fleet in the nation to operate exclusively on environmentally friendly natural gas-powered vehicles. Respiroauto (means breathing in Spanish) Clean Air celebrates the commitment of the U.S. Postal Service to help improve air quality in the El Paso area. The international Clean

The Honolulu Advertiser

HAWAII

Thursday, September 17, 1998

City Desk: 525-8090

B

Beaches open after oil cleanup

Dead bird found off Makaha

By Yasmin Anwar
Advertiser Staff Writer

State health officials yesterday reopened all but one of Kauai's beaches and added two more birds to its list of victims either killed or injured in the 5,000-gallon Tesoro Hawaii oil spill.

A dead bird was found drifting in the ocean off Oahu's Makaha Beach yesterday. A live bird, coated with oil, was found Tuesday at Kilauea Beach on north Kauai, increasing the number of recovered birds to 31, of which 20 were dead.

Meanwhile, Nukoli'i Beach in Kauai remained closed as cleanup crews continued to scour the area for tar balls stemming from an Aug. 24 oil

spill off Barbers Point on Oahu. An estimated 117 barrels of oil were dumped into the ocean when a Tesoro Hawaii hose failed while pumping fuel oil into a crude oil tanker.

Several Kauai beaches were closed after tar balls washed ashore, from Fujii Beach on the island's northeast coast to Barking Sands and Polihale on the island's west side.

Yesterday, state health offi-

cials reopened Fujii Beach and other areas closed during the cleanup that could last another two weeks.

Wildlife officials estimate that more birds have been killed as a result of the spill, but have been eaten by sharks or are dying in remote areas. State officials are asking the public to report any evidence of oil-damaged wildlife to the Oil Spill Response Center.

Many of the dead and

injured birds have been identified as red-footed boobies, brown boobies and petrels. Birds that washed up at Makapuu Beach are being treated at Sea Life Park on Oahu. Those that washed up on Kauai were transported to the state forestry and wildlife division's veterinary offices on Maui.

Anyone who finds oil-affected wildlife should call 245-1955, ext. 4051 or 4049 on Kauai, or 847-8718 on Oahu.

Oil cleanup continues at Kauai beach

As many as 117 barrels of
Tesoro oil were spilled
Aug. 24 off Barbers Point

BY TRISH MOORE
Kauai correspondent

LIHUE — Only Nukoli Beach remains closed on Kauai while crews continue a cleanup after an Aug. 24 oil spill off Barbers Point on Oahu.

The state Health Department had closed several east-side beaches on Kauai after oil and tar began washing ashore last week.

Cleanup of the small tar balls also continues at Kipu Kai beach, but the area is too remote to get to by land.

The oil spill response team, contracted by Tesoro Hawaii, the company responsible for the spill, continued helicopter and boat searches yesterday along the Kauai coastline for signs of offshore oil, according to a statement from the company.

Bruce Anderson, state deputy director of environmental health, said the oil and tar don't pose a threat to human health, but if people get it on their skin, they should use hand cleaners such as Lava, Citrikleen or the type of soap used by mechanics to remove the tar.

He also said fish and marine life that taste OK should be safe to eat. "If they were sufficiently contaminated with oil to pose a health threat, they would taste too bad to eat," Anderson said.

Company officials said as many as 117 barrels of oil were spilled from a leaking hose while a ship was being refueled at a mooring near the Tesoro refinery.

When oil and tar-soaked birds began appearing on Kauai last week, Coast Guard officials traced the source of the oil to the Tesoro spill.

So far, 30 damaged birds have been found, mostly on Kauai. Of those, 11 are being treated by state veterinarians.

Anyone finding any evidence of birds or marine life damaged by the oil is asked to contact the Oil Spill Response Center at 245-1955, extension 4051 or 4048 on Kauai, or 847-8718 on Oahu.

Oil spill INTELLIGENCE REPORT®

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17 September 1998

Heavy Fuel Spill Impacts Hawaiian Islands

A Bunker C fuel spill in the US state of Hawaii that seemed too insignificant to combat when it occurred on 24 August has developed into an environmental incident involving more than 150 people, according to the unified command for the operation. By 14 September, oil had polluted six beaches, and dead or dying sea birds had washed ashore on the islands of Kauai and Oahu.

The Honolulu Area Unified Command calls the beach pollution minimal and reports just 29 oiled birds, of which 14 remained alive and under treatment on 16 September. However, biologists fear that the toll among common pelagic plunge feeders, including boobies and petrels, may be much greater. "We're just not seeing them. We have not had the usual industry standard of search and collection on this spill yet," says Linda Elliott, a wildlife biologist for the International Bird Rescue Research Center who is advising Hawaiian officials.

Plunge feeders soar over the ocean, diving head-first into schools of fish. That behavior exposes the birds to oiling, because fish tend to school in the shadow cast by oil on water, Elliott says. Biologists expect to find more birds that are oiled because Kauai is a major roost for pelagic species, and oiled birds tend to come ashore to preen themselves, she adds.

Spill from Mooring

Tesoro Petroleum Corp. has taken responsibility for the oil, which it says came from the Barbers Point Offshore Mooring for its refinery outside

Honolulu. The captain of a ship loading No. 6 (Bunker C) fuel oil after dark on 24 August noticed sheen on the water, and Tesoro immediately shut down its pumps and reported the spill to authorities, says Nathan Hokama, a company spokesperson. The loading hose had failed, he says. Survey flights on the following four days found no oil, he says. Tesoro estimated the spill at 420 gallons (1.4 tonnes), he reports.

However, on 5 September, a holiday weekend, some oil stranded on the northeastern shore of Kauai, 150 km west-northwest of the mooring, according to the unified command, and cleaning began immediately. On 11 September, the US Coast Guard (USCG) chemically matched two tarballs from Kauai and the oil on two birds to Tesoro's spill. By then, beachcombers and volunteers had found 20 oiled birds, Elliott says.

On 13 September, state health officials closed two eastern-facing beaches, Fuqi Beach and Nukoli'i Beach for cleanup, the unified command reports. Those beaches remained closed on 16 September. Shoreline workers quickly removed tarballs from two other eastern beaches, Barking Sands and Polihale Beach. Tesoro issued a revised spill estimate of "no more than" 4,900 gallons (16.7 tonnes), Hokama says. By 14 September, workers had begun cleaning oiled boulders and collecting tarballs near Kipu Kai on the island's southeastern shore and had removed tarballs from Kilauea Bay on the north shore, the unified command reports.

Tanker Spill Oils 35 Brazilian Beaches

A spill of Arabian crude oil, estimated at nearly 4,000 gallons (13.5 tonnes), from the leaking Petrobras tanker Maruim polluted 35 beaches in four Brazilian cities near Santos, São Paulo, Brazil (see *OSIR* 27 August 1998), according to Iris Regina Fernandes Poffo, a biologist for

CETESB, the regional environmental agency for São Paulo state.

Someone discovered the Maruim leaking around midnight on 20 August, as it prepared to unload at a Petrobras terminal at São Sebastião, 250 km southeast of São Paulo. Poffo reports.

Oil-soiled seabirds treated in Olinda

Most afflicted boobies dying after spill at Tesoro mooring

story by TIMOTHY HURLEY, staff writer
photos by EUGENE TANNER, The Maui News

OLINDA — The oil spill occurred off Oahu and most of the birds is washing up on the shoreline of Kauai.

So where are the oil-soiled seabirds being treated?

— Lipconary Maui, of course.

It's an unlikely locale for the treatment and rehabilitation of coastal seabirds caught in an oil spill more than 100 miles away. But, then again, it appears few really expected this day to come. At least not this soon.

In the Maui Veterinary Services Office in Olinda is where the action is. State veterinarian Greg Massey and Linda Elliot, the Hawaii-Pacific representative of the International Bird Rescue Research Center, are leading a small group of volunteers in an effort to save the afflicted seabirds.

Only six of the 18 brown and red-footed boobies brought to Maui in the last 10 or so days have survived, and those holding on remain in critical condition.

The birds are suffering from dehydration, anemia and several other of the maladies that can occur when a fragile system comes in contact with heavy crude.

Volunteers have been feeding the oil-coated boobies fluids, nutrients and fish nine times a day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

These seabirds, which are not considered endangered, are found in colonies around Hawaii, Oahu and Midway and live in rookeries for fish and squid.

Officials say virtually all of the oil was traced to an Aug. 23 spill in which a hose failed while the tanker Overseas New York was taking on fuel oil at the Tesoro Hawaii (formerly BHP Hawaii) mooring off Barber's Point, Oahu.

Clouds of oil have been washing ashore on Kauai, and oil spill response teams on both Kauai and Oahu continue to check the coastline for birds.

Each day, two or three more oil-soiled birds are sent to Olinda, and the clinic is bracing for more.

"Nobody knows how big this is going to be," said Massey, the avian veterinarian contracted by the state to treat oiled wildlife. "It's not like there's a huge slick to monitor."

Massey said there could be many more victims to treat. After response teams check some of the islets that are home to colonies of boobies.

Massey and Elliott point out that Olinda is not the best place for such work. Aside from its out-of-the-way location, Olinda is too cold at night for these birds, which, in this condition, have trouble keeping their body heat.

The birds are being housed in a room warmed by infrared lamps and heating pads.

"This is not the ideal facility, but we're trying to make it work," said Elliott, who lives on the Big Island.

Massey and Elliott said they hope this incident serves as a wake-up call to the need for a permanent oiled wildlife response facility, which would be located ideally on the coast.

There are funds the state can tap into — a fund created by a tax on the oil companies — but that money has not been available so far. For the past year, Massey has been lobbying for such a facility, but the project has not come to fruition.

"It's hard to sell it when you don't have oil spills all the time," he said. "But how much is our wildlife worth?"

In California, he said, there are local oil spill response centers up and down the state.

"They have their act together. We don't," he said.

Said Elliott: "Some 2.5 million gallons (of oil) come to Hawaii annually. It's not a matter of if another spill is going to happen, it's a matter of when."

— only other recent oil spill was two years ago at the Chevron facility in Pearl Harbor. But that spill was contained without any wildlife impacted.

"We were lucky that time," Massey said. "This time, the spill got away, and it's unknown how much damage there will be."

See OIL-SOILED on the next page



Ken Brewer of the International Bird Rescue Center used a toothbrush, warm water and one of Dawn dish soap to remove crude oil from the neck feathers of a brown booby Wednesday at the Maui Veterinary Services Office in Olinda. Volunteer Marie Rogers of Kilauea helped Brewer hold the bird in place. Birds caught in the aftermath of an Aug. 23 oil spill off Barber's Point are being sent to the Olinda facility for treatment. After having been washed with candle oil and Dawn dish soap, the bird is rinsed and dried.



Some names to fill

'Everybody's got a chance,' notes of eight candidates running in election

By VALERIE MONSON
Staff Writer

It's been more than a week since the "vacancy" sign was hung on the Makawao-Haiku-Paia and Maui County Council, but no time incumbent Alice Lee left higher office, a long line formed among those who want to move into her old space.

Eight candidates have filed, and while most are first-time seekers, some of the names are more than a few bells, including community leader Dan Hall, retired chiropractor John Enriquez and schoolteacher, Molina.

No less than five hopefuls are in the Democratic primary: Hall, Enriquez and Molina with Maui Police Commissioner Augustine "Gus" Fuenleather known George "Kooki" Giga. On the Republican side, Sam Clark will take on Patrick George Sr. The Green Party, Nicholas, a familiar face on campaign trail, will sit out the



The Maui News brings readers coverage of primary election races.

FRIDAY
✓ Lanai council
✓ South Maui council

ALSO SEE...

■ Bob Mondak is trying to regain the Upcountry seat that was taken away from him by Charmaine Taverne. ... On PAGE A2

■ The candidate in the 1st Congressional House race are profiled.



ENRIQUEZ

GRIGG



Public input sought on spill

NUKOLI BEACH, Kauai (AP) — The public is being asked to help in determining how much environmental damage was caused by a leak that dumped several thousand gallons of oil into the ocean.

The help was sought by the state Department of Health after it received reports that some people were disposing of birds that had been killed by the 5,000-gallon spill.

DOH Deputy Director Bruce Anderson said the department needs to document evidence in order to recover damage costs from Tesoro Hawaii, the oil company responsible for the Aug. 24 spill off Barber's Point on Oahu.

The Health Department and other state and federal officials will try to determine the extent of the damage over the next several weeks before negotiating with the company.

"There are ways of projecting what the impacts might be, but the more information we have, the better," Anderson said.

Residents and visitors are being urged to contact the Oil Spill Response Center if they find any evidence of birds or marine life damaged by the oil.

"I know we're not finding a lot of the birds," he said. "Many are eaten

Oil-soiled birds treated in Olinda

Continued from Page A1

The work at Olinda is being supported by the Clean Islands Council, an oil company-funded organization that paid for much of the equipment needed to treat the wildlife.

While most of the seabirds sent to Olinda have died, there have been some successes. On Wednesday, one bird was determined to be stable enough to undergo a full washing — an event Massey called a milestone — and the other survivors were beginning to eat whole fish.

Massey and Elliott said more volunteers are needed. No experience is necessary. Also needed are some plastic kiddie pools, which will be converted to ponds for the birds. Call 572-3502.

by sharks, and others end up dying in some remote area where we can't find them."

Nineteen of 30 birds found battered in oil from the Aug. 24 spill have died, while the rest were being cared for, the Coast Guard said Wednesday.

Seal runs afoul of spilled oil

Boats still floating onto beaches; wildlife officials ask for help

By Jan TenBruggencate
Advertiser Kauai Bureau

LIHUE, Kauai — An oil-coated Hawaiian monk seal was found on an east Kauai beach yesterday, prompting wildlife officials to ask that residents report any new sightings of oil-coated wildlife.

They said the seal, an endangered species, was not at risk of dying as a result of the contamination.

The Tesoro Hawaii oil spill tug, 24 off Barbers Point, has been on a familiar pattern: Officials can't find any oil at sea but keeps washing up on Kauai's

shorelines, and wildlife continues to be affected.

Several gallons of oil washed onto a rocky coastline north of Kamilo Point near Lihue Airport yesterday or the day before, and rock crabs were among the first victims.

The spill occurred when a floating pipeline for fuel oil burst during refueling of the tanker Overseas New York. The hose had been pressure-tested and approved for use in July, said Tesoro Hawaii spokesman Nathan Hokama. The company estimates that no more than 5,000 gallons of Bunker C fuel oil was released in the spill.

Where to call

Anyone spotting oil-coated seals or other wildlife should call the Oil Spill Response field office on Kauai at 245-1955, Ext. 4051. After hours, call the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Honolulu at 927-0830.

Oil started washing up on Kauai beaches two weeks ago, mostly in small gobs. On beaches it mixes with the sand to form tar balls. On rugged shorelines it spatters the rock black, like paint. In tidepools, some of it floats and causes a sheen, some sinks to lie thick and sludgy on the bottom.

— See Oil, Page B5



Jan TenBruggencate / The Honolulu Advertiser

More fuel oil was found washed ashore yesterday morning Kauai's rocky eastern coast near Lihue Airport.

Oil: Stains found on endangered seal

By B1

So far, 31 seabirds, most of them brown and red-footed boobies, have been found covered with oil. Twenty of these are dead, and 11 are under veterinary care. Most other wildlife seemed to have been spared, until yesterday.

The monk seal was seen on a beach near Kipu Kai, a shoreline that has been repeatedly oiled. The monk seal had oil stains on its bottom and hindquarters.

National Marine Fisheries Service biologist John Naughton inspected the seal and said

it was behaving normally and did not appear to be at risk from the oil.

"The seal should be left alone. The stains should come off naturally as the seal molts," he said.

Anyone who sees other oil-spotted seals should keep away from the animals, and report the sighting.

Nukoli Beach reopened to the public yesterday, but the beach fronting Wailua Golf Course remained closed as crews continued cleaning up tar balls on the sand. And although an aerial infrared survey earlier this week spotted no oil off Kauai's coastline, the new batch

of oil was located yesterday morning near Kamilo Point, north of Nawiliwili Bay.

The tarred coastline covered roughly 100 yards of shore, with thick slabs of oil staining rocks and small pieces floating in the shorebreak.

Rock crabs were the most obviously affected wildlife. Several were dead and others moved lethargically, their main bodies and legs covered in oil.

Tesoro, the state and the Coast Guard are conducting a major assessment and cleanup effort. Oil spill response crews yesterday began conducting an underwater survey off eastern Kauai.



NEWS WATCH

Monk seal now among victims of Tesoro spill

As the cleanup of the Tesoro oil spill continues, there is a report that a Hawaiian monk seal with coin-size oil stains on its coat was spotted near a cove in the Kipu Kai area off the southeastern side of Kauai.

The small amount of oil on the seal should come off naturally as the seal molts and should not pose a threat to its health, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Oil Spill Response Center reports another oiled seabird was found yesterday, bringing the total number of oiled birds found to 31. Of those, 11 are being treated and 20 have died.

Cleanup yesterday continued in the Kipu Kai area, and a portion of Nukoli Beach fronting the Outrigger hotel was reopened.

Up to 117 barrels, or about 5,000 gallons of oil, leaked from a mooring hose at Barbers Point Aug. 24.

Oil and tar balls have been washing up on beaches on Oahu and Kauai since.

There is still no estimate of the cost of the cleanup.

Residents who find oily birds or other animals are asked to call the Hawaii Spill Response Center in Honolulu at 847-8718 or the Coast Guard at 927-0830.

Volunteers on Maui are also needed to help care for oiled birds at the Maui Veterinary Services Office. Those interested should contact Greg Massey at (808) 572-3502.

The Garden Island
September 18, 1998

Front page

Oil-spotted monk seal sighted off Kipu Kai

By BRANDON SPRAGUE
Staff Writer

KIPU KAI — Hawaiian monk seal is the most recent animal to be affected by an Aug. 24 oil spill by oil refiner Tesoro Hawai'i.

Plastered with tar balls, the seal, an endangered species, was spotted off the coast of Kipu Kai on Thursday by a wildlife official.

Saying that the oil posed no immediate threat to the animal, John Naughton of the National Marine Fisheries Service, decided to leave it alone.

"The seal appeared to be behaving normally," Naughton said. "If more seals are seen, we will handle the response on a case-by-case basis."

Health department official Curtis Martin, who is leading the state ef-

fort on the oil spill cleanup, added that the oil covered only 10 percent of the seal's body and that the tar balls would come off naturally as the animal molts.

Tesoro spokesperson Nathan Hokama said that this was the first sighting of oiled monk seals from the time the oil spill response team started tracking wildlife on Sept. 7.

"We are concerned about any effect on the environment and wildlife, and Tesoro Hawai'i will continue to do everything necessary to clean up the oil and address its effects," he said.

Meanwhile, oiled birds continue to be captured and taken in for rehabilitation at the treatment center at the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Miami veterinary services office, Sea Life Park on

(See Spill on Page 3)

Spill (Continued from Page 1)

O'ahu and a facility on Kauai that is providing initial care for the birds.

The total count of oil-covered seabirds captured is 31. Of those, 20 have died while in captivity. The total count doesn't include the

numerous sightings of oiled birds throughout the island. Persons who find wildlife, including birds or fish, that appear to have been affected by the oil are asked to call the response center at the Outrigger Kauai Beach Hotel at 245-1955

(ext. 4051 or 4049).

The state reopened Fujii Beach and 1,300 feet of Nukoli'i Beach yesterday, but the shoreline fronting the northern part of the Outrigger remained closed for cleanup.

State Briefs

Beach hit by oil spill reopened

LIHUE (AP) — The state Department of Health has reopened Fuji Beach following the cleanup of marble-sized tar balls from an oil spill off Oahu.

However, Nukunui Beach remained closed until it is inspected by state health officials, the Coast Guard said Wednesday. All other beaches on Kauai were open.

Nineteen of 30 birds found covered in oil from the Aug. 24 spill have died, while the rest were being cared for, the Coast Guard said.

Tesoro Hawaii Inc. initially reported 420 gallons of oil spilled from its mooring facility 1 1/2 miles offshore of Barber's Point. The company later increased the figure to 5,000 gallons.

Environmentalists have demanded Tesoro Hawaii be fined the maximum of \$25,000 for the spill.

9/19/98

Hon. Advertiser

IN HAWAII

5 more sea birds coated with oil

Hawaii residents have continued to find sea birds, most of them dead after suffering the extended effects of being coated with fuel oil.

The Oil Spill Response Center reported five more birds were found Thursday, bringing the total of recovered birds to 36. Only 11 of those have survived. Wildlife officials fear many other soiled or dead birds have not been found.

The pollution is from the Aug. 24 spill of up to 5,000 gallons of fuel oil from a ship taking on Bunker C oil at the Tesoro Hawaii mooring off Barbers Point on Oahu.

Six surviving birds are being treated at the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife veterinary center on Maui and five at Sea Life Park on Oahu.

Beachgoers who get the oily tar on their skin should use hand cleaners such as Lava, Citrikleen or soaps used by mechanics, the state Health Department said.

Hon. Advertiser
9/19/98

Hawaii's Environment

JAN TENBRUGGENCATE



Sea birds most at risk from oil spill

The Aug. 24 Tesoro Hawaii oil spill off Barbers Point is a threat to seals and shoreline wildlife such as rock crabs, but the greatest danger is to sea birds.

Seals so far appear not to be seriously affected by the thousands of gallons of oil, which started washing up on Kauai beaches two weeks ago in mostly small gobs. But some shoreline species such as crabs are often killed outright.

Sea birds are severely affected, and most of those that have been found with oil on them have died. Here are some answers to questions about the spill and its impact:

Q: How do sea birds get oil on them?

A: Most of the affected birds are brown boobies and red-footed boobies, which feed on fish near the surface. They may be diving through oil slicks to get at fish that seek protection in the shade underneath.

Q: How does oil affect the birds?

A: The oil reduces the birds' ability to regulate their body temperatures, and many are found chilled or overheated. Birds often lose the ability to fly, and are found floating or washed up on shore. When they are unable to feed, they starve and become dehydrated. They can also suffer problems from ingesting the oil, including anemia and an inability to absorb nutrients.

Q: What happens at bird treatment centers?

A: Veterinarian Greg Massey said one of the first jobs is to stabilize a bird's body temperature and to feed and rehydrate it. Scientists feel it is critical to get the animals over the initial shock of contact with the oil before undertaking the extremely touchy job of oil removal, because the stress of washing "could put them over the edge."

Q: What do they eat?

A: "We're feeding them smelt," Massey said.

Q: How is oil ultimately removed from the birds' feathers and bodies?

A: Massey said the birds are being pre-treated with canola oil to soften the spilled oil. They are then washed in a series of tubs filled with soapy water. As each tub's water gets dirty, the birds are moved to the next. The birds are rinsed with softened hot water. They then are dried and kept overnight before being placed out in the sun to prepare them for release.

Q: How can I help?

A: On Maui, volunteers are needed to help care for birds at the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Maui Veterinary Services Offices in Makawao at (808) 572-3502. Volunteers should be at least 18 years old. Services are needed from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Q: What if I find oil on beaches or affected wildlife?

A: On Oahu call the Hawaii Spill Response Center at 847-8718. On Kauai call the Kauai field office at (808) 245-1955, ext. 4051.

Jan TenBruggencate is the Advertiser's Kauai County bureau chief

Hon Advertiser 9/19/98

NEWS: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Gas cylinders found on beaches could be deadly,

Advertiser Staff

The state Department of Health is warning Hawaii beachgoers of gas cylinders that sometimes wash ashore, particularly on the windward beaches of Oahu and Kauai.

"Mishandling a cylinder could be fatal," said Bruce Anderson, deputy director of environmental health.

More than 30 such cylinders have been reported washed up in the past year, and several more have been located during the past two weeks as teams have scoured Kauai and Oahu shorelines looking for signs of

the Tesoro Hawaii oil spill. The Health Department believes some of the cylinders, which may contain ammonia, chlorine or other hazardous gases, come from passing fishing vessels that dump them overboard after using them.

Analyses of the gases in some of the metal containers indicate some do not come from U.S. ports.

A message needs to be sent "to vessels trawling the Pacific that the ocean is not their own private dump," Anderson said.

Residents should call the Health Department's Hazard Evaluation and Emergency

Response office at 586-4249 if they find abandoned cylinders on beaches.

Reactions sought

The state Department of Transportation seeks public comment on its Self Evaluation for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The evaluation examines departmental programs and services to determine if they are accessible to disabled people. Copies can be reviewed at the following locations:

OAHU: The DOT Public Affairs Office, 869 Punchbowl

St., Room 506; Hawaii Centers for Independent Living, 414 Kuwili St., Suite 102; Hawaii Kai Public Library; Hawaii State Library, Hawaii & Pacific Section; Kaimuki Public Library; Kaneohe Public Library; Walkiki-Kapahulu Public Library; Pearl City Public Library; Salt Lake Moanalua Public Library; Waialua Public Library; Waianae Public Library.

BIG ISLAND: DOT Kona International Airport at Keahole Manager's Office; Hilo International Airport, assistant district manager's office; Hilo Public Library, Kailua-Kona

state warns

Public Library; Thelma Parker Public Library, Kamuela.

KAUAI: Lihue Airport district manager's office, 3901 Mokulele Loop #6; Lihue Public Library.

MAUI: DOT Kahului Airport District Manager's Office; Kahului Public Library.

MOLOKAI: Molokai Public Library.

Comments and recommendations will be accepted through Sept. 14 at Accessibility Planning & Consulting Inc., 1154 Fort Street Mall, Suite 206; Honolulu HI 96815. For information, call Bruce Clark at 545-1141.

Honolulu Star Bulletin
Sept. 19, 1998



NEWSWATCH



Kauai Beach partially open after oil cleanup

The state Health Department has reopened 1,300 feet of Nukolii Beach affected by a recent oil spill, the Coast Guard said.

The reopened portion extends from Nukolii Beach Park to the southern part of Kawaihoa on Kauai's eastern shoreline, it said.

However, the beach from the northern part of Kawaihoa to Wailua Bay remains closed as oil spill contractors sift the sand for remaining oil pellets.

No tar balls were found on the ocean bottom by undersea divers at Fujii and Nukolii beaches nor in the Kipu Kai area, the Coast Guard said.

Shoreline cleanup and checks continue at other spots along the Kauai coast.

Some oil has been reported at Opoi, near Lihue Airport. The Kauai Fire Department was using a jet-ski to investigate.

A hose failure at the Tesoro Hawaii Corp. mooring 1 1/2 miles off Barbers Point led to the Aug. 24 spill.

Volunteers clean up Isle coasts

Thousands
in Hawaii join
global campaign

by Yasmin Anwar
Advertiser Staff Writer

This time, there were no landmines and grenades. But volunteers for yesterday's statewide "Get the Drift and Bag It" beach and underwater cleanup did net other unusual items, including a California parolee's identification card and a box of live rifle ammunition at Hanauma Bay, where a snorkeler spotted three hand grenades this summer.

They even found a newborn kitten.

"We got that kitten just before a mongoose pounced on it," said Harvey Shapiro, volunteer coordinator for Hanauma Bay.

Here, about 60 volunteers collected 60 bags of debris as part of an international campaign to clean the world's shorelines.

Despite Hawaii's primary election yesterday, volunteer turnout for the 13th annual Keep America Beautiful campaign exceeded that of previous years, said Chris Woolaway, an outreach coordinator for Sea Grant, which funds ocean conservation and research programs.

"We cleaned and voted, and voted and cleaned," Woolaway said. She said Windward sites were inundated with plastic. Also, tar balls, possibly from the Tesoro oil tank, were found at Kahuku in the North Shore near Turtle Bay.

Woolaway estimated more than 5,000 volunteers joined yesterday's cleanup, which



Jeff Widener / The Honolulu Advertiser

Clyde Tojio and his family picked up trash at Hanauma Bay for yesterday's "Get the Drift and Bag It" cleanup project. The statewide effort was part of the 13th annual Keep America Beautiful campaign.

covered more than half the 250 statewide sites set to be cleaned in coming weeks. All of Oahu's targeted coastal areas were cleaned yesterday, as well as parts of Maui and the Big Island.

Data collected at this year's cleanup will be handed to the national Center for Marine Conservation so experts can track the nature of garbage that lands on shores.

There were no estimates yesterday for the amount of debris collected, but Woolaway said the bulk of it included the usual environmen-

tal nuisances: car batteries, fishing nets, plastic, junked car parts and cigarette butts.

On the Waianae side, more than 100 Schofield Barracks soldiers helped volunteers clear the shoreline from Keaau Beach Park to Keawaula Bay where they collected at least 1,000 bags of garbage.

"There's more awareness about keeping the coastlines clean," said Katy Kok, volunteer executive director of Nani 'O Waianae, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, "but there's still the problem

of where we're going to put all this solid waste."

If it hadn't been for two Chaminade University classes and a University of Hawaii oceanography class, the turnout at Hanauma Bay would have been pitiful, Shapiro said.

Still, Shapiro credited a core group of dedicated volunteers, including two older female scuba divers, for doing a thorough job. The baby kitten was taken to a cat shelter in Hawaii Kai, and the live ammunition was turned over to the park manager, he said.

The Honolulu Advertiser
HAWAII

State reopens Nukoli Beach

**Oil cleanup effort may cost
 Tesoro more than \$30 million**

By Walter Wright
 Advertiser Staff Writer

The teams cleaning up the Tesoro Hawaii oil spill turned another corner yesterday when Nukoli Beach on Kauai was reopened to the public.

State officials believe the

battle against the blobs of oil may cost Tesoro more than the \$30 million that Chevron spent trying to clean up Pearl Harbor after a pipeline break in May 1996.

"Tesoro is certainly doing the right thing now," State Deputy Health Director Bruce

Anderson said. "They've hired the best people and have spared no expense. But what we want to make sure is that they do all that is possible to prevent a recurrence."

Prevention, Anderson added, would cost a lot less than the cure.

Tesoro spokesman Nathan Hokama said he was not able to confirm any spill cost estimates yesterday.

The reopening of Nukoli by the Department of Health left

only remote Kipu Kai beach and an area south of Ahukini Landing closed for continuing cleanup efforts. Oil started turning up on Kauai just over two weeks ago from a spill caused when a hose failed at Tesoro's single-point mooring off Barber's Point on Oahu. Tesoro has estimated the spill at 117 barrels of oil.

Another oil-coated sea bird was found Saturday, bringing the total to 37, of which 28 birds have died. Surviving

birds are being treated at the state's veterinary services office on Maui.

Volunteers are still needed at the Maui bird treatment facility, according to Dr. Greg Massey of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. They may call 572-3502 on Maui for information.

Any sightings of oil-coated birds or other wildlife can be reported to the Hawaii Spill Response Center in Honolulu at 847-8718, or Kauai at 245-1955, ext. 4051.

All Kaua'i beaches now open

The Garden Island - Sept. 21, 1948

LIHU'E (AP) — The last remaining Kaua'i beach hit with tar balls from an oil spill off O'ahu last month has now been reopened.

The state Department of Health reopened a closed section of Nukoli'i Beach on Sunday. A portion of the beach was opened to the public Friday.

The area south of Ahukini Landing and the Kipu Kai area were still being cleaned, the Coast Guard said.

At last report 26 birds had died from the effects of the Tesoro Hawaii spill off Barbers Point on O'ahu. Eleven other birds found covered with oil were being cared for.

(See Beaches on Page 2)

Beaches

(Continued from Page 1)

Some 5,000 gallons of oil went into the ocean Aug. 24 when a floating pipeline burst during the refueling of the tanker Overseas New York.

Kauai beaches reopen; bird deaths reach 26

LIHUE, Hawaii — All of Kauai beaches are now open following the reopening of Nukoli Beach yesterday after survey teams found no tar balls from an oil spill off Oahu last month.

The state Department of Health reopened a closed section of Nukoli Beach yesterday. A portion of the beach was opened to the public Friday. The area south of Ahukini Landing and the Kipu Kai area were still being cleaned, the Coast Guard said.

However, the bird count continues to climb. So far, 26 birds have died from the effects of the Tesoro Hawaii spill off Barbers Point on Oahu. Eleven other oil-covered birds were being cared for.

Some 5,000 gallons of oil went into the ocean Aug. 24 when a floating pipeline burst during the refueling of the tanker Overseas New York.

A claims number has been set up by Tesoro Hawaii. On Oahu, it is 532-9425; neighbor island residents can call 1-800-900-3717.

STATE

IN BRIEF

The Associated Press

Last Kauai beach hit by tar balls reopened

LIHUE — The last remaining Kauai beach hit with tar balls from an oil spill off Oahu last month has now been reopened.

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The area south of Ahukini Landing and the Kipu Kai area were still being cleaned, the Coast Guard said.

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Some 5,000 gallons of oil went into the ocean Aug. 24 when a floating pipeline burst during the refueling of the tanker Overseas New York.

IN HAWAII

No new oil found from Tesoro spill

LIHUE, Kauai — Teams on Kauai yesterday continued to clean up beaches fouled by the Aug. 25 Tesoro Hawaii oil spill off Barbers Point, but reported no new oil coming ashore.

With the effort winding down, Tesoro spokesman Nathan Hokama said the company so far has spent about \$2 million on the cleanup.

That suggests the total cost will be far less than the \$30 million or more estimated by State Deputy Health Director Bruce Anderson over the weekend, even taking into account possible future claims against the company.

Tar balls and oil blotches hit shorelines mostly on the east coast of Kauai for two weeks. Tesoro, the state, Coast Guard and private contractors deployed more than 60 people on Kauai to work on the cleanup.

Thirty-nine oiled seabirds have been recovered, and at least 26 of them have died. The rest are being cared for by state and private wildlife teams with the assistance of the International Bird Rescue Research Center.

Effects on shoreline wildlife were not clear, although crabs and other creatures were killed in areas where oil buildup was heavy.

A Hawaiian monk seal was spotted near Kipu Kai with oil spots on its fur, but it was not believed to be in danger.

Kauai or Oahu residents who find oiled wildlife or see oil on the coastline can call the Hawaii Spill Response Center in Honolulu at 847-8718 or the Kauai field office at 245-1955, ext. 4051.

Teams assess cost of oil spill

The Garden Island 9/24/98

(MOTI BOUNITINOD) 11100

By BRANDON SPRAGUE
Staff Writer

LIHU'E — It could be months before Tesoro Hawaii can determine the cost of a late August oil spill that drifted from O'ahu to Kaua'i killing at least 26 seabirds and leaving beaches littered with tarballs.

The oil company will pay not only the cleanup costs of the 5,000-gallon spill and any penalties assessed, but also will be required to restore natural resources to the condition they were in prior to the spill.

Capt. Frank Whipple, head of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office on O'ahu, said that the cost of restoring natural resources after a spill can be "phenomenal — way up in space."

In 1996, a Chevron Industries pipeline leak spilled 25,000 gallons of bunker oil into Pearl Harbor. Estimated cost of the first month of clean-up was \$5 million.

Chevron paid a relatively low fine of \$7,500.

The Tesoro spill was much smaller, but the company is likely to pay penalties, which, according to the 1990 Oil Pollution Act, could be as much as \$10,000 per violation day, or a maximum of \$125,000.

CLEANUP COSTS: Once Tesoro was identified as the company responsible for the oil spill, it was required to form a response team. Called the Unified Command, the team included personnel from Tesoro, the Coast Guard and the state health department.

On Sept. 12, the Unified Command deployed 150 personnel to deal with various aspects of the cleanup both here and on O'ahu.

Two large oil spill response vessels were summoned to Kaua'i to search for oil slicks on the water, while two helicopters, chartered by Tesoro, flew low over beaches to look for tarballs.

Spill

(Continued from Page 1)

In the early stages of the response, workers from the Gas Company on Kaua'i were called in to police the beaches and keep the public away from affected zones.

Curtis Martin, DOH supervisor of onsite coordinators, said Tesoro has done everything by the book.

"They stepped up to the plate and have been cooperative, but ultimately they will get the bill," he said.

ASSESSMENT: With the cleanup effort winding down, state and federal officials are beginning the next phase of oil spill response. It is their job to assess the damage to natural resources.

The most painfully obvious damage has been to seabirds that have been sighted on or near Kaua'i shores covered with oil.

The birds, when the tar sticks to their feathers, can no longer regulate their body temperature and many die of hyper or hypothermia. Others die of starvation, not being able to fly or hunt because of the tar covering them.

Thus far, 37 birds covered in oil have been recovered by wildlife experts. But even undergoing rehabilitation, 26 of the birds have died.

The surviving eleven birds are being treated at the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Maui veterinary services office.

But this may be just the tip of the iceberg. Many of the birds sighted are still strong enough to elude capture and wildlife experts say that a large number of the oiled birds, having been affected while diving to the water looking for fish to

eat, never make it to shore.

In addition, one monk seal has been spotted in the Kipu Kai area with oil stains on its hide although wildlife officials determined that there was no immediate threat to the animal.

Martin said assessing natural resources affected goes beyond counting the number of injured animals.

"There is not a price tag on a bird," he said.

"We look at the whole population of the damaged resource, we look at the injured boobies that are being rehabed for instance, and determine to what extent they were damaged and then we look at what it takes to make the population whole again."

DOH spokesperson Patrick Johnston said returning the bird population to the state it was in before the spill is a part of the assessment cost.

"We will look into everything that was affected and the time period in which it was affected.

This includes the closed beaches, fishing boats, as well as the birds," he said.

As for the damage to fishing boats, Tesoro spokesperson Nathan Hokama said that 13 claims had been made by individuals saying they had been adversely affected by the spill. Filed mostly by fishermen whose nets or lines were damaged by the oil when they were fishing off of O'ahu, these claims averaged \$500.

The Natural Resources' Damage Assessment (NDRA) is being conducted by the health department.

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the Department of the Interior, which investigates the impact to fish and wildlife, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which evaluates the damage done particularly to endangered species such as monk seals.

These agencies act as trustees of the natural resources and assess "the cost of restoring, rehabilitating, replacing, or acquiring the equivalent of, the damaged natural resources and the diminution in value of those natural resources pending restoration, plus the reasonable cost of assessing those damages."

Assessment is usually a long process. The populations of affected wildlife have to be studied and all the data must be compiled and analyzed. Once this is done, the trustees sit down with the responsible party which develops its own assessment and a settlement is negotiated, Johnston said.

The assessment for the Chevron spill two years ago, for instance, is still pending.

"It is a lengthy process," Curtis said of the Tesoro spill assessment. "It is going to be timely, yet on the other hand it will take time to get it done."

PENALTIES: There is no question that in spilling oil into the ocean, Tesoro was in violation of state and federal law. So there will be fines sought against the oil company. But just how much is still a matter of debate and is ultimately up to a Coast Guard review board.

The Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter has asked the government to levy the maximum fines against Tesoro

for the spill.

But the maximum fines are usually reserved to renegade parties who do not accept responsibility for the spilled oil.

One issue under investigation that may affect the penalty assessment of the Tesoro spill is why the company did not detect the full amount of oil spilled.

"There was a miscalculation and we were given a reason why they underestimated. At this point we are considering that as a part of this case," Johnston said.

"If there was a lapse in judgment where it could have been avoided then that's different," he said.

Tesoro originally estimated that only 10 barrels of bunker oil had escaped. Then two days after the Coast Guard announced Tesoro was responsible for the oil washing up on beaches and killing birds on Kaua'i, this estimate was changed to as many as 117 barrels, or nearly 5,000 gallons.

According to Johnston, spills off Barbers Point are usually contained within a few miles of the site.

But even with all its tracking equipment and safeguards, a huge volume of the oil managed to escape unnoticed until resurfacing on Kaua'i.

Tesoro blamed its miscalculation on flyovers conducted immediately after the spill which did not find any oil in the Barbers Point area.

Even so, computer modelling had the oil spill's trajectory 20 miles south of Kaua'i.

"This one wasn't a huge slick," Johnston said. "But this one was weird, it was just small enough slip by."

Tesoro spills diesel fuel at Barbers Point harbor

Smith Maritime, as 'the responsible party,' says the spill has already been cleaned up

BY JAYMES K. SONG
Star-Bulletin

Tesoro Hawaii and Smith Maritime were involved in spilling 50 gallons of diesel fuel off Barbers Point yesterday, according to officials.

The spill is the second in recent weeks involving Tesoro at Barbers Point.

Coast Guard officials described yesterday's spill, reported at about 5 p.m., as "minor."

Smith Maritime President Gordon Smith said a tugboat from Tow Boat Services and Management Inc. was fueling at one of his company's barges when the fuel overflowed and spilled into the waters. Tesoro was the fueling facility. The cause of the spill is being investigated by the Coast Guard.

"We're the responsible party in the cleanup," Smith said. "We hired a contractor. As of this morning, it was entirely cleaned up."

Smith said his company has left some oil detectors out today in case any fuel was not cleaned up.

Tesoro Hawaii spokesman Nathan Hokama said the company is always concerned about any environmental im-

pacts caused by spills.

He said Tesoro will cooperate with the Coast Guard in its investigation.

State Health Department spokesman Patrick Johnston said the spill was easier to assess because it occurred during daylight hours and not at night, like the one in August.

On Aug. 25, Tesoro spilled approximately 5,000 gallons of oil. The oil contaminated Kauai beaches, killed 26 birds and injured 13 others.

That spill cost Tesoro \$2 million in cleanup costs, officials estimated.

Hokama said the two spills are unrelated. The first was at a terminal more than a mile off of Barbers Point, and yesterday's was inside the harbor, he said.

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Second oil spill under investigation

By Walter Wright
Advertiser Staff Writer

The Coast Guard said it is investigating a new spill of Tesoro-Hawaii oil at Barbers Point — the second in less than a month.

An estimated 20 to 30 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into Barbers Point Harbor Wednesday as a Tesoro tanker was transferring fuel to the barge Hui Mana, officials said.

Coast Guard Lt. Mark Willis said a containment boom placed around the barge kept almost all of the oil from spreading.

Willis and Tesoro spokesman Nathan Hokama said it was not clear who was

responsible for the spill.

Tow Boat Services and Management, operators of the barge, assumed responsibility immediately to facilitate a cleanup, "the way a good steward would," Willis said. The barge was chartered by Tesoro.

The spill was a far smaller and less damaging than the Aug. 24 spill of 5,000 gallons of heavy bunker oil after a hose broke at Tesoro's single-point mooring more than a mile off Barbers Point.

Contractors and the Coast Guard are still trying to clean up that spill, which left oil on birds and beaches as far away as Kauai and has

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Tesoro: 20-30 gallons spilled during fuel transfer

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cost the company at least \$2 million so far.

The diesel fuel that overflowed Wednesday is much lighter and more likely to evaporate than the bunker fuel of the Aug. 24 spill, which coagulated and showed up on beaches as sandy tar balls.

Willis said "someone was not there to monitor" an aspect of the loading operation Wednesday.

"The barge had a list to it — which could be from anything,

ballasted wrong or something else — and because it had a list it was throwing off the level readings" in the tanks receiving the diesel, Willis said.

An estimated 2,100 gallons overflowed from a vent onto the deck of the barge, but only 20 to 30 gallons reached the water.

"We respond and clean up as much oil as possible, but the best way to keep the environment clean is to prevent spills, and that's what we are into big-time right now," Willis said.